

6. (Amended) A combination drinking container and straw comprising:

a container having a wall, a bottom, an open top, and at least one straw retaining member formed in the wall; and

B² a straw disposed in the at least one retaining member, the straw having a first end which extends into the container and a second end which extends upwardly from the container so that liquid may be sipped through from the container while the straw is disposed in the at least one retaining member, wherein at least a part of the straw is held in position with respect to the container by the retaining member.

Please amend claim 11 as follows:

11. (Twice Amended) A combination drinking container and straw comprising:

a container having an outer wall, a bottom, an open top, and at least one straw retaining member disposed in an outer surface of the outer wall;

B a lid for closing the top of the container, the lid having an aperture formed therethrough;

B a straw disposed in the at least one retaining member, the straw having a first end which extends into the container to terminate proximate the closed bottom thereof and a second end which extends upwardly from the container so that liquid may be sipped through from the container while the straw is disposed in the at least one retaining member, wherein the configuration of the straw is defined by the configuration of the retaining member; and

a loop formed by the straw proximate the container top such that, when said straw extends through said aperture, said loop hinges said lid onto said combination even when said lid is removed from said container.